

Toastmasters International
District 72 Executive Committee Meeting
Sunday 04 July 2021, 9 am

See Appendix 1 for members present

1 Call to order and welcome

District Director (DD) David O'Brien called the meeting to order at 9 am and welcomed all present. He explained the speaking process.

2 District Mission

Program Quality Director, Distinguished Toastmaster (PQD) Kathryn Duncan read the mission statement.

3 Notice of Meeting

Administration Manager (AM) Kayleen Gilder read the notice of meeting.

4 Speaking Rights

DD David O'Brien stated that only District Officers have speaking and voting rights. District Officers include all Area Directors, all Division Directors, District Administration Manager (AM) Kayleen Gilder, Public Relations Manager (PRM) Brad Grootelaar, Club Growth Director (CGD) Glen Pearce, Programme Quality Director (PQD) Kathryn Duncan and District Director (DD) David O'Brien, Immediate Past District Director (IPDD) Rob Woolley.

Under Toastmasters International (TI) Policy DD David O'Brien extended speaking rights to: Past Distinguished District Director, Distinguished Toastmaster Carol Mitchell as District Parliamentarian (DP).

5 Confirmation of Quorum

DP Carol Mitchell noted this is a District Executive Committee (DEC) meeting. The quorum for a DEC is the majority of its members. Post the May Council meeting the Executive had 6 senior officers, 4 division directors, 8 area directors, we currently have 17 of those members present. At present there was not a quorum as there have been additions to the Officer list. Carol noted an update to come.

6 Apologies

AM Kayleen Gilder reported apologies from the following district officers:
Russell Hazelwood, Area Director D4

Moved that the District Executive accepts the apologies

No seconder required

CARRIED

7 Changes to and confirmation of agenda and additional items

No additional items were added to the agenda.

Moved that the agenda be adopted:

Moved Rob Woolley, IPDD

Seconded: Pauline Cook, D J Director

CARRIED

IPDD Rob Woolley asked the question if there is a motion it should be an extra week in advance 28 days.

DD David O'Brien sought confirmation from the District Parliamentarian.

DP Carol Mitchell advised while there are no specific reference to motions in particular within the District procedures for the operating procedures which this motion falls under as there are for the admin procedures, normal process would be 21 days' notice before the meeting as fairness to members. There is a motion today that did not make the 21 days however we can proceed with that motion as a discussion later or the DD may remove it now from the agenda. Her advice would be the practice that we discussed yesterday would be good for members to have in general business rather than as the motion itself however it is the District Director's decision as to how we move forward.

DD David O'Brien confirmed as the motion did not meet the 21 day protocol and is not in line with our DPs he therefore withdraws Motion 1 from the agenda today and it would be moved into the general business section as a discussion and learning opportunity.

8 Minutes of the District 72 District Executive Committee Meeting held on 14 May 2021

The minutes of the 14 May 2021 District Executive Committee virtual meeting have been circulated. There were no corrections received to the minutes.

Moved that the minutes of the 14 May 2021 District Executive Committee virtual meeting, as circulated are a true and correct record

Moved: Kayleen Gilder, AM

Seconded: Kathryn Duncan, PQD

CARRIED

9 Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

10 Correspondence

DD David O'Brien confirmed there was no correspondence which needed consideration by this meeting.

11 Urgent Business

DD David O'Brien reported the following district officers and district field officers have been appointed since the May District Council Meeting:

Finance Manager - Tony Cross

Area Directors:

C2 Karen Squires

C3 Peter van Lokven

D1 Cameron Parsonson

D3 Mata Samatua

E6 Alan Bradley

G2 Andrew Freeth

G3 Vinh Nguyen

G5 Anna Spencer

G6 Rachelle Winefield

J1 Jackie Blackwell

J2 Ron Blackwell

J3 Karen Hoyland
J4 Sheryl Ryan
J5 Murray Ingram

District Field Officers:

Judy Love, Wellington Region Logistics Manager

Celina Templeman, Training Team and Christchurch Region Logistics Manager

DP Carol Mitchell confirmed as a result of these appointments being approved we now officially have 7 senior district officers, 4 division directors and 23 area directors making a total of 34 members. A quorum is therefore 18 members.

DP Carol advised 30 members were present and the quorum is confirmed.

Moved that the District Executive approves the appointment of the officers as listed

Moved: David O'Brien, DD

Seconded: Peter van Lokven, AD C3

CARRIED

12 Conference Reports

12.1 Report from Wellington Conference May 2021

DD David O'Brien reported the Wellington Conference was very successful considering the lead up to it and the uncertainty faced as a team trying to plan for it. He was very happy with what was achieved in such a short amount of time. The team that pulled it together were truly awesome. It was very pleasing for the first face to face opportunity as a district last year. David thanked the district for supporting the conference and all the people who put a lot of effort in a very short time to make it a success.

Moved that the Wellington Conference May 2021 report be received

Moved: David O'Brien, DD

Seconded: Glen Pearce, CGD

There was no discussion.

12.2 Report from Christchurch Conference May 2022

PRM Brad Grootelaar reported:

The conference will be held in Christchurch in the city centre at Rydges Latimer, 13-15 May 2022. It is a big year for us. 2022 is an anniversary year for D72. The first club was chartered in 1962 so we will be celebrating 60 years at the conference and we want to make it extra special for this reason.

Registrations: Registrations were launched in June 2021. Currently 33 people have registered.

Sponsorship: thanks to the first sponsor we are giving away a conference cup to the first 50 people that register and pay. Not all of the 33 people have paid so there are cups still up for grabs.

They are at the stage of looking for sponsors. If it was something Exec members thought their clubs might be interested in helping out with let him know.

Cost: the cost being charged is the basic cost of running the conference but they did need help and asked members if their clubs or anyone had a business they may like to give some support.

Brad noted there was a lot of information yet to come. Once some decisions that are made today will help them progress work on the programme.

Moved that the Christchurch Conference 2022 report be received

Moved: Brad Grootelaar, PRM

Seconded: Maria Muhl, AD D5

There was no discussion.

13 Finance Managers Report

DD David O'Brien reported the financial statement for the previous toastmaster's year will be presented to the September meeting as some June expense claims may be received up until the end of July 2021.

14 Senior District Officer Reports

DD David O'Brien advised this meeting is early in the Toastmasters year and the final TI results are not currently available. The base numbers may change slightly once the final figures are available.

DD David O'Brien asked the senior officers to present their reports with any verbal updates:

14.1 Division C Director report

No report received from Division C Director Simon Grieg.

Division D Director report

Division D Director Brad Grootelaar presented his report as tabled.

Moved his report be received

Division E Director report

Division E Director Lisa Wheeler read by Mary Jaksch presented Lisa's report as tabled.

Moved the report be received

Division G Director report

Division G Director Judy Love read by Glen Pearce presented Judy's report as tabled.

Moved the report be received

Division H Director report

Division H Director Glen Pearce presented his report

Moved his report be received

Division J Director report

Division J Director Mary Clarke, read by Pauline Cook presented Mary's report as tabled.

Moved the report be received

14.2 Public Relations Manager report

No report was received by the District Public Relations Manager Tianyuan Qu.

14.3 Club Growth Director report

Past CGD Kathryn Duncan moved her report be received as tabled with the following verbal update:

- The forms for chartering the On-line Uncensored Comedians & Humorous Club have been put to Toastmasters International and they are just waiting on the confirmation of that to be included in our clubs.

Moved her report be received with verbal updates

14.4 Programme Quality Director report

Past PQD David O'Brien presented his report as tabled.

Moved his report be received

14.5 District Director report

IPDD Rob Woolley presented his report as tabled.

Moved his report be received

Moved the district officer reports other than the financial, public relations and Division C reports be received

There was no discussion.

15 **Motions of Notice (Contests – Area, Division, District)**

DD David O'Brien put forward motions noting they were vital matters for the clubs and their members.

Motion 1

DD David O'Brien restated Motion 1 has been withdrawn.

Motion 2

That in accordance with the directive from Toastmasters International, District 72 is to decide for the 2021-2022 year, whether contests at Area, Division and District will be with in person or online.

District Officers will vote for one of the two options:

Option A: All contests at Area, Division and District will be in person.

Option B: All contests at Area, Division and District will be online.

This is a vital matter for your clubs and their members.

IPDD Rob Woolley commented within 48 hours of hearing about the directive from TI all the clubs were emailed. Feedback was to be distributed to DDs and ADs as members of the DEC but it wasn't done. He summarised 90% of respondents (approximately 83 from clubs) said 'in person'. Several rationales were given which he hadn't collated but a few of the key arguments were:

- Historically contests have always been held in person.
- Historically numbers of people competing in contests in person have been higher than what we saw last year when people competed online.

Rob advised he received numerous emails from people whose clubs and their members did not want to compete because it was online. He believed it was imperative with the 60th anniversary of the district coming up and a major conference which is really needed to be the focal point of this year to reinvigorate the membership and give us something to strive for that these contests are in person. If they are online the conference is markedly different to every conference we have been to and what we understand a conference to be. The key things that came up with contests online all functionaries have to be online and that means that they can't even be in the same room. The audience for a conference is completely decimated. The contestants can't be in the audience.

DD David O'Brien commented as the DD he urged everyone to have a think and consider it is the role of district officers to give every single member in our district exactly the same opportunities. Toastmasters International (TI) gave us two options we can hold contests in person or online. As of this year we have an online club. By going to face to face we automatically exclude those members in an online club who are overseas as they cannot come and compete face to face. This will become an issue in the future as more and more online clubs come on board. We need to think as district officers about whether we can exclude those members.

He reminded however we are here to represent the clubs in our areas and if you have been given a mandate on how to vote you must vote that way.

Area Director E1 Erik Roeper asked what the current proportion of purely online clubs there are. DD David O'Brien confirmed at the moment there was only one online club which is chartering at the moment so it is something we need to think about for the future and the reason he has raised it.

Area Director C4 Craig McGregor advised he did not understand why someone who is in an online club cannot attend conference? He suggested in that respect only one aspect of a club is being looked at and saying they cannot participate. There could be a range of reasons (e.g. not in their city, travel, accommodation etc.) why someone may not attend a conference. He did not know what is preventing someone who is online from coming. It is still a choice.

DD David clarified if the decision is made to go face to face it is not just District level it is from Area to Division to District.

PRM Brad Grootelaar noted last year was tough. He was involved in at least 30 contests as a zoom manager and as a judge and he was not the only one having to do that.

The trouble a lot of people found with online contests is it was just so hard getting people involved and there was a small group of people doing the work. He did not want us to go through that again. It was close to breaking a lot of people in the organisation. He asked people to consider that if we do go down the line of online contests like last year it will probably be a small group of people having to do all the work.

Area Director D5 Marie Muhl, commented the value of face to face contests is that area, division and district level are an opportunity for toastmasters to meet each other and network and there are all those things we promote. Online contests have their place and if we have another COVID outbreak we would have to go back to those. She strongly supported face to face contests.

Division G Director Anthony Fletcher pointed out we are the people to make clubs and people in them progress. It is a real pain running contests online for a limited number of people. We need to remember we are there for the people not us so we have to vote according to the clubs whatever we like.

Area Director G6 Rachelle Winefield raised the skills and techniques that are required for online are very different for what you need for meeting in person and there are concerns that:

- There will be a degree of inconsistency in the content and quality of participants in the contests and it will become a competition if people are on different playing fields.
- With the uncertainty at the moment that we may have contests at a lower level and then have to move online which has a different skill set later on.

DP Carol Mitchell commented it is great that everyone feels comfortable and safe to speak and as has been pointed out you are representatives of your clubs today and their sentiment it's not personal opinion. She would like to say how exciting, for her, it looks like we are most likely to go face to face and what an enviable position you are going to be in this year as the recent narrative suggests members will be lining up to either be a contestant or fill functionary roles at contests which will make it easy for District Officers organising contests.

Option A: All contests at Area, Division and District will be in person - 28

Option B: All contests at Area, Division and District will be online - 2

The District has chosen Option A: All contests at Area, Division and District will be in person

CARRIED

DD David O'Brien, as stated earlier motion 1 has been moved from Item 7 Changes to and confirmation of agenda and additional items for discussion.

Motion 1

Motion to change the number of District contests held in D72 for the 2021/22 year. As per the general rules for contests, TI policy 6.0 1B, the District Director has the right to recommend how many contests that the District conduct to District level for the current year, this recommendation must be ratified by the District Executive committee. The Motion As the District Director it is my recommendation that the District only carries 3 contests through to District level, those 3 contests to be the International speech contest, Evaluation contest and the Table topics contest.

Rationale for this motion This will allow more time at district conference to run educational sessions as we only need to run 1 contest on each day of the conference and gives the conference committee more time in their program to allow for educational workshops and longer break periods to allow better networking. This will take pressure off Area directors when running contests as they will have a maximum of three contests in one day which will allow more options for running educational workshops at Division and District level, as well as lessen the pressure on finding functionaries to run contests. When the District was allowed to run November conferences this was not an issue but with not being allowed to run a November Conference running 4 contests has become an issue that needs to be looked at. It has also become apparent that Areas are struggling to get clubs to send through contestants to Area level as many members are not interested in the Humorous speech contest. It will also remove pressure on club rosters in the busy contest period.

DD David O'Brien alluded to discussions in the NZTM Facebook around concerns that a protocol was being changed and apologised as he thought he may not have explained the process clearly and would do so now.

The rationale to put the motion forward arose because:

- As the DD under TI policy 6.0 he is allowed to recommend to the District Executive how many contests the District runs in a year. It is a formalised idea that the DEC get to vote on. Under D72 protocols if the motion had gone forward and the DEC approved the motion to go down to three contests (International, Evaluation & Table Topics) that would then be taken to the DCM in September to be ratified.
- Feedback from last year's district officers was that they had a lot of trouble trying to get people to step up onto the online platform for contests.
- The decision to remove the humorous contest was made prior to notification from TI that there would be the option to go face to face or online.

The rationale for withdrawing the motion:

- Following notification from TI with two options for holding contests either face to face or online and discussions held around the district it appeared everyone were likely to want to move back to a face to face contest.
- The motion did not meet the 21 day notification timeframe.
- If the motion did go to the DCM on 12 September this would only give those divisions who wanted to run October division contests one month to plan and hold their club and area contests.

David suggested however it was a good opportunity for the DEC to practice parliamentary procedure by following the process through so that in future if there are any motions that the Executive has to vote on that may be contentious they have some experience.

IPDD Rob Woolley commented he was glad DD David O'Brien had raised the motion and raised the following points:

- One of the things that members fear is that members of the DEC are going to come in here and make a vote automatically saying yes and we do know that that has happened.

- What members really want is for you to come into a DEC meeting having read everything and if you are not too sure to be able to ask questions of the DD, DP or who you think can inform you.
- Acknowledged the DD's right under TI policy to raise the motion (which could be interpreted that they are supposed to each year) but thought DD David O'Brien's process was wrong. It did however highlight an issue with one of the District 72 procedures which at some point in the past a decision was made by District that said we will hold four contests as they did not want to have this debate every year.
- That the procedure is possibly an incorrect procedure as it impinges on the DD's right to make decisions for their year as they have the right to do under TI policy.
- If the motion had gone in earlier than 21 days a decision would still have been made on a motion that is against D72 procedures. TI confirms that we are unable to do that.
- We have a district procedure that needs to be removed so that the DD is free to raise this motion and the Executive free to discuss it as they ought to have the power to do.

Rob encouraged this team to raise a motion for the District Council as it is an operating procedure which can only be changed at the District Council that the procedure that says our district holds four contests be removed from our district procedures and free up our leaders to lead.

Division D Director Anthony Fletcher queried holding decisions such as these when the DEC and DCM are close together so you don't end up with a hiatus. DD David O'Brien responded it is mandated by TI Policy, point 6.1 which states that it must go to the first DEC meeting of the year which is always held at incoming DO training. In essence the DOT would need to be pushed out to September or bring the DCM forward.

17 **Announcements**

The next meeting of the D72 Executive Committee will be in person and held on Saturday 11 September 2021 in Wellington. Start time and venue to be advised.

18 **Close 10 am**

Appendix 1: Members present at the District Executive Committee meeting 04 July 2021

Immediate Past District Director – Rob Woolley
District Director - David O'Brien
Program Quality Director - Kathryn Duncan
Club Growth Director - Glen Pearce
Administration Manager - Kayleen Gilder
Public relations Manager - Brad Grootelaar
District Parliamentarian - Carol Mitchell
Division C Director - Leanne Fox
Division E Director- Mary Jaksch
Division G Director - Anthony Fletcher
Division J Director - Pauline Cook
C1 Area Director - Doug Fraser
C2 Area Director - Karen Squires
C3 Area Director - Peter Van Lokven
C4 Area Director - Craig McGregor
D3 Area Director - Mata Samatua
D5 Area Director - Marie Muhl
E1 Area Director - Erik Roeper
E3 Area Director - Kirsten Vaughan
E5 Area Director - Sun Kim
E6 Area Director - Alan Bradley
G2 Area Director - Andrew Freeth
G4 Area Director - Daniel Malpass
G5 Area Director - Anna Spencer
G6 Area Director - Rachelle Winefield
G7 Area Director - Lisa Doyle
J1 Area Director - Jackie Blackwell
J2 Area Director - Ron Blackwell
J3 Area Director - Karen Hoyland
J4 Area Director - Sheryl Ryan
J5 Area Director - Murray Ingram